



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

09/814,720

03/23/2001

Yusuke Kinoshita

205006US2

5624

22850

7590

08/16/2006

C. IRVIN MCCLELLAND  
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.  
1940 DUKE STREET  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER

RYMAN, DANIEL J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2616

DATE MAILED: 08/16/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

ST

<b>Interview Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	09/814,720	KINOSHITA ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Daniel J. Ryman	2616	

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Daniel J. Ryman. (3)\_\_\_\_\_.

(2) Michael Monaco (Applicant's Representative). (4)\_\_\_\_\_.

Date of Interview: 10 August 2006.

Type: a) ☐ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference  
c) ☒ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☒ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☐ Yes e) ☒ No.  
If Yes, brief description: \_\_\_\_\_.

Claim(s) discussed: 2,11,15,20 and 21.

Identification of prior art discussed: Inoue et al. (USPN 6,442,616).

Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☐ was reached. g) ☒ was not reached. h) ☐ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: Examiner and Applicant discussed the proposed amendments. Examiner recommended further clarification in the claims of the address exchange to correspond to previously indicated allowable subject matter.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN A NON-EXTENDABLE PERIOD OF THE LONGER OF ONE MONTH OR THIRTY DAYS FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.

Daniel Ryman  
Examiner's signature, if required

## Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

### Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record

A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

### Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews

#### Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

#### 37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiners Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No., placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:

- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:

- 1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
- 2) an identification of the claims discussed,
- 3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
- 4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
- 5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,  
(The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
- 6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
- 7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

### Examiner to Check for Accuracy

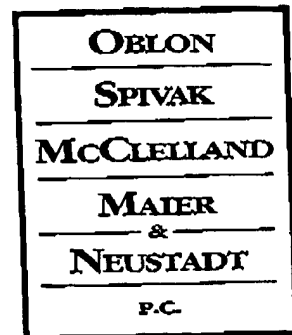
If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.

AUG. 4. 2006 2:27PM

OBLON SPIVAK

NO. 367

P. 1



ATTORNEYS AT LAW

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Date: 8/4/06 Signature: Michael Monaco  
Attorney

To: Examiner: D. Ryman Telephone Number: 308-

Group Art Unit: 2616

Facsimile No.: 571-273-3152

From: Michael E. Monaco Registration No.: 52,041

Telephone Number: 703-413-3000

Date: August 3, 2006

RE: U.S. Application Serial Number: 09/814,720

Filed: March 23, 2001

Attorney Docket Number: 205006US2

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS PAGE: 116

### COMMENTS

In the event that any fees are due, including any fees required under 37 CFR 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge the required fees to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 CFR 1.136 for the necessary extension of time.

1940 DUKE STREET ■ ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314 ■ U.S.A.  
TELEPHONE: 703-413-3000 ■ FACSIMILE: 703-413-2220 ■ WWW.OBLON.COM

Docket No: 205006US

**Applicant Initiated Interview Request Form**Application No.: 09/814,720 First Named Applicant: Yusuki KINOSHITA, et al.Examiner: D. Ryman Art Unit: 2616 Status of Application: Pending**Tentative Participants:**(1) Michael E. Monaco (2) \_\_\_\_\_

(3) \_\_\_\_\_ (4) \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Date of Interview: August 10, 2006 Proposed Time: 10:00 AM(1) [ ] Telephonic (2) ☒ Personal (3) [ ] Video Conference

Exhibit To Be Shown or Demonstrated: [ ] YES [ ] NO

If yes, provide brief description: \_\_\_\_\_

**Issues To Be Discussed**

Issues (Rej., Obj., etc)	Claims/Fig. #s	Prior Art	Discussed	Agreed	Not Agreed
(1) _____	_____	_____	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
(2) _____	_____	_____	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
(3) _____	_____	_____	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
(4) _____	_____	_____	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

☒ Proposed Amendment

Brief Description of Arguments to be Presented:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

An interview was conducted on the above-identified application on \_\_\_\_\_.

**NOTE:**

This form should be completed by applicant and submitted to the examiner in advance of the interview (see MPEP § 713.01).

This application will not be delayed from issue because of applicant's failure to submit a written record of this interview. Therefore, applicant is advised to file a statement of the substance of this interview (37 CFR 1.133(b)) as soon as possible

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Applicant/Applicant's Representative Signature)\_\_\_\_\_  
(Examiner/SPE Signature)

DOCKET NO: 205006US2

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :

YUSUKE KINOSHITA, ET AL.

: EXAMINER: RYMAN, D.

SERIAL NO: 09/814,720 :

FILED: MARCH 23, 2001

: GROUP ART UNIT: 2616

FOR: METHOD FOR PACKET  
COMMUNICATION AND COMPUTER  
PROGRAM STORED ON COMPUTER  
READABLE MEDIUM

**DRAFT**  
**DO NOT ENTER**

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the Office Action dated July 18, 2006, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 7 of this paper.

Application No. 09/814,720  
 Reply to Office Action of July 18, 2006

# IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Cancelled).

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A method for packet communication ~~wherein a node includes a private sender address, the node received at a second network, and first and second address changing means located in a first network and the second network, respectively, the first address changing means receiving a packet from said node and then changing said private sender address of the packet to a global address for outputting the packet into a second network being different from said first network, the method comprising:~~

before a first node moves from a first network to a second network :

receiving said a first packet from said first node in said first network by the a first address changing means device in said first network, said first packet including a private sender address corresponding to said first node and destination address information corresponding to another node in a third network;

changing said private sender address of said received first packet by the first address changing means device from said private sender address to the a global address, the changing performed by mapping the global address to the private sender address by <sup>using ?</sup> with first translation information held within said first address changing device, and

sending the changed first packet from the first address changing device to the another node;

after said first node moves from said first network to said second network :

receiving a second packet from the first node by a second address changing device in said second network, said second packet including said private sender

Application No. 09/814,720  
Reply to Office Action of July 18, 2006

address and said destination address information corresponding to the another node in a third network.

sending a notification message from the second address changing device to the first address changing device indicating that the first node has contacted the second address changing device.

sending sender address translation information from said first address changing device to said second address changing device so as to create second translation information in said second address translation device.

changing said private sender address of said received second packet by the second address changing device from said private sender address to said global address, the changing performed by mapping the global address to the private sender address <sup>user?</sup> by said second translation information held within said second address changing device, and

sending the changed second packet from the second address changing device to the another node; and

periodically sending updated translation information from at least one of said first and second address changing device to <sup>the other</sup> another of said first and second address changing device.

~~notifying periodically the first address changing means by the second address changing means and the second address changing means by the first address changing means of an address translation information between said private sender address and said global address after said changing of the address; and~~

~~sending said packet by the first address changing means to a third network different from said first and second networks after said changing said sender address.~~



Application No. 09/814,720  
Reply to Office Action of July 18, 2006

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A method for packet communication according to claim 2, further comprising:

before said first node moves from said first network to said second network,  
receiving in said first address changing device a return packet from said  
another node in the third network, said return packet including said global address as  
a destination address, and  
changing said global address of said received return packet by the first address  
changing device from said global address to said private sender address, the changing  
performed by mapping the global address to the private sender address by said first  
translation information held within said first address changing device.  
~~registering the node in a home agent, the home agent configured to manage the first~~  
~~network;~~  
~~registering the node in a foreign agent, the foreign agent configured to manage the~~  
~~second network; and~~  
~~notifying periodically an address changing means of the home agent by an address~~  
~~changing means of the foreign agent, and the address changing means of the foreign agent by~~  
~~the address changing means of the home agent of a correspondence between said private~~  
~~sender address and said global address, after said registering the node in the home agent and~~  
~~in the foreign agent.~~

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A method for packet communication according to claim 2, further comprising:

after said first node moves from said first network to said second network

Application No. 09/814,720  
Reply to Office Action of July 18, 2006

receiving in said first address changing device a return packet from said another node in the third network, said return packet including said global address as a destination address,

forwarding said received return packet from said first address changing device to said second address changing device, and

changing said global address of said received return packet by the second address changing device from said global address to said private sender address, the changing performed by mapping the global address to the private sender address by said second translation information held within said second address changing device.

~~detecting by the second address changing means of the second network that a registration request is sent from said node moved into said second network to a foreign agent configured to manage said second network; and~~

~~requesting by the second address changing means of the second network that the first address changing means in the first network transmits to the second address changing means of the second network a correspondence between the global address mapped to the private sender address, after said detecting.~~

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A method for packet communication according to claim 2, ~~further comprising~~ wherein said step of sending sender address translation information from said first address changing device to said second address changing device so as to create second translation information in said second address translation device comprises:

a first step of at least one of

detecting by the second address changing device that a registration request is sent from said first node to a foreign agent configured to manage said second network.

Application No. 09/814,720  
Reply to Office Action of July 18, 2006

detecting by the second address changing ~~means device in the second network~~  
that a response indicating that said first node is registered has been sent from a home  
agent configured to manage said first network to a said foreign agent configured to  
manage said second network, and

monitoring a timer in at least one of said first and second address changing  
device; and ~ does the monitoring only occur after the 2d address changing means receives address translation info other monitoring for a request,  
i.e. does the "monitoring timer" refer to an update step such that the info is updated once the timer expires? If so,  
the claim should be amended to indicate the monitoring timer only occurs in specific instances.  
a second step of requesting by the second address changing means device in the

second network that the first address changing ~~means in the first network device~~ sends to the  
second address changing ~~means device~~ the sender address translation information of the  
~~second network the global address mapped to the private sender address, after said detecting.~~

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): A method for packet communication according to  
claim 2, further comprising:

adding an address translation information request for requesting the global address  
mapped to the private sender address to a registration request sent from a foreign agent  
configured to manage said second network to a home agent configured to manage said first  
network.

Claim 7 (Cancelled).

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A method for packet communication, comprising:

receiving a packet including a private sender address from a first node located in a  
first network, the first network including a first address changing ~~means device~~ which  
receives the packet;

Application No. 09/814,720  
Reply to Office Action of July 18, 2006

changing the address of said received packet by the first address changing meansdevice from said private sender address to a first global address by mapping the first global address to the private sender address by translation;

sending by the first address changing device said packet whose sender address has been changed to a third network different from said first network and a second ~~networks~~network, the second network including a second address changing meansdevice;

receiving by the first address changing device a packet including a second global address, different from said first global address, from a second node which has been moved into said first network from the second network which is different from said first network;

notifying periodically the first address changing meansdevice by the second address changing meansdevice and the second address changing meansdevice by the first address changing meansdevice of an address translation information between said private sender address and said first global address after said changing of the address; and

sending by the first address changing device said packet received from said second node to the third network without changing an address of said packet received from said second node from said second global address to said first global address.

Claims 9-10 (Cancelled):

Claim 11 (New) A method for packet communication, comprising:

before a first node moves from a first network to a second network :

receiving a first packet from the first node in the first network by a first address changing device in said first network, said first packet including a private sender address corresponding to said first node and destination address information corresponding to another node in a third network,

Application No. 09/814,720  
Reply to Office Action of July 18, 2006

changing said private sender address of said received first packet by the first address changing device from said private sender address to a global address, the changing performed by mapping the global address to the private sender address <sup>using</sup> with first translation information held within said first address changing device, and sending the changed first packet from the first address changing device to the another node;

after said first node moves from said first network to said second network;

receiving in the first address changing device a notification message from a second address changing device in the second network indicating that the first node has contacted the second address changing device,

sending sender address translation information from said first address changing device to said second address changing device so as to create second translation information in said second address translation device, thereby enabling a changing of said private sender address of said second packet by the second address changing device from said private sender address to said global address;

*received from the 2nd address changing means from the 1st device and containing the private address and destination address of the another node*

sending the changed second packet from the first address changing device to the another node; and

one of

periodically sending updated translation information from said second address changing device to the first address changing device, and  
periodically receiving updated translation information at said second address changing device from the first address changing device.

Claim 12 (New). The method of Claim 11, further comprising:

before said first node moves from said first network to said second network,

Application No. 09/814,720  
Reply to Office Action of July 18, 2006

receiving in said first address changing device a return packet from said another node in the third network, said return packet including said global address as a destination address, and

changing said global address of said received return packet by the first address changing device from said global address to said private sender address, the changing performed by mapping the global address to the private sender address <sup>using ?</sup> by said first translation information held within said first address changing device.

Claim 13 (New). The method of Claim 11, further comprising:

after said first node moves from said first network to said second network

receiving in said first address changing device a return packet from said another node in the third network, said return packet including said global address as a destination address,

forwarding said received return packet from said first address changing device to said second address changing device without changing said global address to said private sender address.

Claim 14 (New). The method of Claim 11, further comprising:

wherein said step of sending sender address translation information from said first address changing device to said second address changing device comprises:

a first step of at least one of

receiving notification of a detection by the second address changing device of the second network that a registration request is sent from said first node to a foreign agent configured to manage said second network,

Application No. 09/814,720  
Reply to Office Action of July 18, 2006

receiving notification of a detection by the second address changing device in the second network that a response indicating that said first node is registered has been sent from a home agent configured to manage said first network to the foreign agent configured to manage said second network, and processing timer information corresponding to a timer in at least one of said first and second address changing device; and <sup>see problem with claim 5</sup> a second step of receiving a request from the second address changing device that the first address changing device send to the second address changing device the sender address translation information.

Claim 15 (New) A method for packet communication, after a first node moves from a first network to a second network, said first network including a first address changing device configured to a) receive a first packet from the first node, said first packet including a private sender address corresponding to said first node and destination address information corresponding to another node in a third network, b) change said private sender address of said received first packet from said private sender address to a global address by mapping the global address to the private sender address <sup>using</sup> by first translation information held within said first address changing device, and c) send the changed first packet from the first address changing device to the another node, the method comprising

receiving a second packet from the first node by a second address changing device in said second network, said second packet including said private sender address and said destination address information corresponding to the another node in the third network;

sending a notification message from the second address changing device to the first address changing device that the first node has contacted the second address changing device;

Application No. 09/814,720  
Reply to Office Action of July 18, 2006

receiving sender address translation information from said first address changing device at said second address changing device so as to create second translation information in said second address translation device;

changing said private sender address of said received second packet by the second address changing device from said private sender address to said global address, the changing performed by mapping the global address to the private sender address by said second translation information held within said second address changing device;

sending the changed second packet from the first address changing device to the another node; and

one of

periodically sending updated translation information from said second address changing device to the first address changing device, and

periodically receiving updated translation information at said second address changing device from the first address changing device.

Claim 16 (New). The method of Claim 15, further comprising:

<sup>of the 2d address changing device</sup>  
receiving from said first address changing device a return packet sent to said first address changing device from said another node in the third network, said return packet including said global address as a destination address, and

changing said global address of said received return packet by the second address changing device from said global address to said private sender address, the changing performed by mapping the global address to the private sender address by said second translation information held within said second address changing device.

Claim 17 (New). The method of Claim 15, further comprising:



Application No. 09/814,720  
Reply to Office Action of July 18, 2006

wherein said step of receiving sender address translation information from said first address changing device at said second address changing device so as to create second translation information in said second address translation device comprises:

a first step of at least one of

detecting by the second address changing device that a registration request is sent from said first node to a foreign agent configured to manage said second network,

detecting by the second address changing device in the second network that a response indicating that said first node is registered has been sent from a home agent configured to manage said first network to said foreign agent configured to manage said second network, and

monitoring a timer in at least one of said first and second address changing device; and <sup>see claim 5</sup>

a second step of requesting by the second address changing device that the first address changing device sends to the second address changing device the sender address translation information.

Claim 18 (New) A computer program product on a tangible computer medium, comprising:

instructions to cause a computer controlled device to carry out the method recited in any one of Claims 11-14.

Claim 19 (New) A computer program product on a tangible computer medium, comprising:

Application No. 09/814,720  
Reply to Office Action of July 18, 2006

instructions to cause a computer controlled device to carry out the method recited in  
any one of Claims 15-17.

Claim 20 (New) A packet communication device, comprising:

the first address changing device recited in any one of Claims 11-14.

112, 161 problems  
claim 11-14 recite a method  $\therefore$  method  
and apparatus in same claim

Claim 21 (New) A packet communication device, comprising:

the second address changing device recited in any one of Claims 15-17.

112, 161 problems  
claims 15-17 recite a method  $\therefore$  method  
and apparatus in same claim

Application No. 09/814,720  
Reply to Office Action of July 18, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-6, 8 and 11-21 are pending, with Claims 2-5 and 8 amended, Claims 9-10 cancelled, and Claims 11-21 added by the present amendment.

In the Official Action, Claims 2, 8, and 9 were objected to; Claims 2-6, 9, and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph; Claims 2-6, 9, and 10 were under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; and Claim 8 was allowed.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter. Claims 2-6 and 9 are amended to overcome the outstanding objections and rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraph. New Claims 11-15 and 16-18 are directed to methods of the first and second address changing device recited in the system-wide method recited in Claims 2-5. Also, all claims are now drafted without the term 'means' to avoid an interpretation under 35 U.S.C. § 112, sixth paragraph. No new matter is added.

Accordingly, in view of the present amendment and in light of the previous discussion, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request and early and favorable action to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number

**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413-2220  
(OSMMN 03/06)

I:\ATTY\MM\205006US-AM.DOC

Eckhard H. Kuesters  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 28,870

Michael E. Monaco  
Registration No. 52,041